

**E2SHB 2630** - S AMD **380**  
By Senator Pridemore

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) Increasing Washington's economic competitiveness requires  
5 increasing the supply of skilled workers in the state; and

6 (2) Improving the labor market competitiveness of all Washington  
7 residents requires that all residents have access to postsecondary  
8 education.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
12 purpose, the state board for community and technical colleges, a  
13 nonprofit organization that has been established to address work force  
14 development issues by a recognized statewide organization of employers  
15 representing a majority of employers in the state, and the work force  
16 training and education coordinating board, in consultation with a  
17 statewide high-technology organization, shall:

18 (a) Identify high demand occupations, which are occupations where  
19 employer demand for workers exceeds the supply of qualified job  
20 applicants;

21 (b) Convene or use existing industry groups, such as industry skill  
22 panels or other industry or occupational entities, to identify the  
23 skill sets that workers need in the high demand occupations;

24 (c) Develop and identify credentials, certificates, and credit-  
25 bearing curriculum recognized by postsecondary institutions and  
26 employers statewide and that are based on the attainment of the skill  
27 sets needed in occupations in high demand sectors;

28 (d) Market the credentials or certificates and credit-bearing  
29 curriculum to potential students and employers as a way for them to  
30 advance in their careers; and

1 (e) Gain recognition of the credentials or certificates and credit-  
2 bearing curriculum by employers.

3 (2) In carrying out the functions of this section, the state board  
4 for community and technical colleges shall give priority to high demand  
5 occupations in industry sectors important to the economic growth of the  
6 state.

7 (3) The state board for community and technical colleges may, in  
8 implementing this section, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of  
9 money, services, and property. All moneys received by the college  
10 board for the purposes of this section must be deposited in a  
11 depository approved by the state treasurer. Disbursements of such  
12 funds shall be on authorization of the college board or a duly  
13 authorized representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective  
14 expenditure and revenue control, such funds are subject in all respects  
15 to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit  
16 expenditure of such funds.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
20 purpose, the state board for community and technical colleges shall  
21 develop and implement a pilot work force education program known as the  
22 opportunity grant program to provide funding for low-income students  
23 enrolled in the program. The purpose of the pilot program created by  
24 this section is to provide financial assistance to students who are  
25 ineligible for other forms of state or federal student financial aid  
26 and to prevent students from having to incur an unreasonable level of  
27 debt from postsecondary educational expenses. For the purposes of this  
28 program, low-income is defined as one hundred seventy-five percent of  
29 the federal poverty level or less. Additional criteria for determining  
30 eligibility for the grant shall be jointly established by the state  
31 board for community and technical colleges and the higher education  
32 coordinating board to ensure the program focuses on providing financial  
33 assistance to students who would not otherwise qualify for existing  
34 financial aid programs. Grant funds may be used for tuition, books,  
35 fees, and other expenses associated with attending a work force  
36 education program. Students must be enrolled and maintain satisfactory  
37 progress in a program developed under section 2 of this act or an  
38 existing program leading to a credential or certificate based on skills

1 needed in an occupation in a high demand sector identified under  
2 section 2 of this act. Funds disbursed under this section shall not  
3 supplant other federal or state forms of student financial aid. The  
4 board must:

5 (a) Begin developing the program no later than March 15, 2006, with  
6 student enrollment to begin no later than January 1, 2007;

7 (b) Submit an implementation progress report to the legislature and  
8 the governor by November 1, 2006. The progress report shall include  
9 but not be limited to:

10 (i) Program goals including target student enrollment and program  
11 completion numbers, and strategies including program delivery and  
12 instructional models for success;

13 (ii) A description of program design including student eligibility  
14 criteria and application process, allowable uses of grant funds, a  
15 process for calculating and administering awards, monitoring student  
16 academic progress;

17 (iii) Pilot college site selection and implementation processes;

18 (iv) Lessons learned during design and implementation and how the  
19 program differs from traditional financial aid programs;

20 (v) Results to date including the number of students enrolled,  
21 average grant amount, programs in which students enrolled, completions  
22 and on-track status of currently enrolled students, job placements, and  
23 starting wages earned by program completers to date; and

24 (vi) Continuing evaluation plan including measures, targets, and  
25 baseline data required from pilot colleges; and

26 (c) Jointly with the higher education coordinating board, conduct  
27 a joint evaluation and report to the governor no later than January 15,  
28 2008, including but not limited to:

29 (i) Data on student enrollment, demographics of program  
30 participants, financial need and other financial support of program  
31 participants, program completion, job placement, and earnings; and

32 (ii) An evaluation of the potential of the pilot program created by  
33 this section to impact student enrollment in postsecondary degree  
34 programs.

35 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges may, in  
36 implementing the opportunity grant program, accept, use, and dispose of  
37 contributions of money, services, and property. All moneys received by  
38 the college board for the program must be deposited in a depository  
39 approved by the state treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be

1 on authorization of the college board or a duly authorized  
2 representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective expenditure  
3 and revenue control, such funds are subject in all respects to chapter  
4 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit expenditure of  
5 such funds.

6 (3) Community and technical colleges that are selected as pilot  
7 colleges to administer the opportunity grants shall coordinate student  
8 benefits with the higher education coordinating board for those  
9 students who are also accessing traditional forms of financial aid such  
10 as the state need grant, Pell grant, and other aid programs  
11 administered by the higher education coordinating board under its  
12 authority in RCW 28B.76.500.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to the availability of funds  
14 appropriated for this purpose, the work force training and education  
15 coordinating board, with cooperation from the state board for community  
16 and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board,  
17 shall conduct a study to include:

18 (a) A review of and recommendations for consolidating and  
19 simplifying the delivery of state-funded and federally funded work  
20 force education programs and work force education aid offered to  
21 students in this state, with a goal of achieving easier access to  
22 postsecondary education for students;

23 (b) A description of barriers that exist to combining work force  
24 education programs and work force education aid, such as state or  
25 federal statutes, rules, or regulations, and the relief that may be  
26 available through federal waivers;

27 (c) An estimate of the funding gap between available work force  
28 education aid and the financial needs of students living in this state;

29 (d) A description of barriers to access and completion of work  
30 force education programs in this state; and

31 (e) Recommendations for increasing participation and completion  
32 rates for work force education programs.

33 (2) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
34 purpose, the work force training and education coordinating board must  
35 submit its report on the study to the legislature by November 15, 2006,  
36 and must coordinate its study and research with the Washington Learns  
37 study of postsecondary education.

1 (3) The work force training and education coordinating board may,  
2 in carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions  
3 of money, services, and property. All moneys received by the board for  
4 the study must be deposited in a depository approved by the state  
5 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of  
6 the board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to  
7 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are  
8 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
9 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

10 (4) For purposes of this section:

11 (a) "Financial needs" includes but is not limited to tuition,  
12 books, fees, tools, living expenses, and child care expenses.

13 (b) "Work force education aid" means financial aid, funded from  
14 state or federal sources, provided to students enrolled in work force  
15 education programs.

16 (c) "Work force education programs" means education and skills  
17 training, including vocational education, apprenticeships, adult basic  
18 education linked to vocational education, work force education under  
19 RCW 28C.18.010, work force training provided under chapter 74.08A RCW,  
20 and any other related work force training program.

21 (5) This section expires December 31, 2006.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act expire June  
23 30, 2008."

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25 By Senator

26 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the  
27 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter  
28 28B.50 RCW; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates."

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